

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

KLINE, John (Republican)
Representative, 2nd District, Minnesota
Elected 2002 to the 108th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: 6 September 1947, Allentown, PA

Home: Lakeville, MN

Marital status: Married (Vicky) – 2 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: Rice University, BA, 1969; Shippensburg Univ, MS, 1988

Military: Marine Corp, 1969-94, retired Col; served in both Carter and Reagan White Houses

Profession: Farmer; think tank executive

Political: After losing close races for the 2nd District seat in 1998 and 2000, received 53.3% of the vote in the November 2002 election for the redrawn district to defeat incumbent Rep Bill Luther (D) in a 3-way race. District is the fastest growing in the state.

Rep Kline is a fiscal and social conservative, but describes himself as an environmentalist who favors setting land aside for conservation and recreation. Opposes abortion, approves of the fast-track trade negotiating authority granted President Bush, and supports making the Bush tax cuts permanent. During the campaign stated that the US armed forces need to be restructured. Cites national defense as the Nation's highest priority and said military policy should be governed by need, not pork-barrel politics. Suggests that military preparedness has been taken for granted, specifically voicing concern for the practice of aircraft cannibalization, troops on food stamps, and a deteriorating intelligence gathering capability. Seeks a seat on the HASC where he desires "to play an active role so that we're spending money in the right places for the right things." Voiced opposition to the Army's Crusader project, an example of a weapons system that he says does nothing to advance strategic military objectives. Other priorities are education, transportation, the war on terrorism, and preserving Social Security.

Additional: White House service included an assignment to carry the nuclear code "football".

Headed a think tank that supported free markets and tax cuts. (CQ, 7Nov02)

AF Bases: None; constituent interest, Minneapolis-St Paul (ANG/AFRES)

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES – Subcs on Terrorism; Projection Forces

EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE

SMALL BUSINESS